IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

At page 4 above "Summary of the invention", please add the following paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 compares the inhibition of MIA expression of the antisense oligonucleotide of the present invention with sequences of prior art.

FIG. 2A shows the structure of oligonucleotides.

FIG. 2B shows the structure of oligodeoxyribonucleotide bases.

FIG. 2C shows the structure of oligoribonucleotide bases.

At page 4, replace the third, complete paragraph with the following paragraph:

The present invention relates to antisense-oligonucleotides with the following sequence 5'- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1), modifications thereof, parts of the antisense oligonucleotide with at least 8 nucleotides and/or modifications thereof. They show a surprisingly much more effective inhibition of the expression and/or function of "Melanoma Inhibitory Activity" MIA, thereby eliciting a more effective inhibition of tumor invasion and/or inhibition of metastasis and for a more effective stimulation of immune cells and/or the immune system than antisense-oligonucleotides of the prior art. The present invention also pertains to a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one of the antisense oligonucleotides or modifications thereof and to its use for the prevention or the treatment of neoplasms, infections and /or immunosuppressive disorders.

At page 5, replace the first paragraph with the following paragraph:

Although a number of oligonucleotides have already been tested so far (see WO 01/68122), the antisense oligonucleotide with the sequence 5 '- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) surprisingly showed the strongest inhibition of MIA compared to the antisense oligonucleotides of the patent application WO 01/68122 with the Sequence-ID-No's 1-8.

At page 5, please replace the second paragraph with the following paragraph:

In one embodiment of the invention, the antisense oligonucleotide having the sequence 5'- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG (SEQ ID NO: 1) or modifications thereof has a DNA- or RNA-type structure able to hybridize to an area of the gene region coding MIA and thereby reducing and/or inhibiting the expression of MIA. It is also understood by persons skilled in the art that fragments having subsequences of the above given antisense oligonucleotide with at least 8 nucleotides or modifications thereof work according to the invention so long as production of MIA is reduced or inhibited.

At page 5, replace the third paragraph with the following paragraph:

In the following, the antisense oligonucleotide with the sequence 5 '- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG (SEQ ID NO: 1) and antisense oligonucleotides representing parts of the ~~this~~ sequence with at least 8 nucleotides are referred to as the antisense oligonucleotides.

At page 21, replace the second complete paragraph with the following paragraph:

Figure 1 discloses the inhibition of MIA expression by different oligonucleotides in HTZ-19 melanoma cells. The bars indicate residual MIA expression of antisense oligonucleotide treated compared to untreated medium control (Medium) or Lipofectin-treated cells (Lipofectin). The numbers 1-8 correspond to the state of art antisense oligonucleotides of the patent application WO 01/68122 having the Sequence ID-No's 1-8 or to the antisense oligonucleotide of the present invention with the sequence 5'- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1), referred to as "new". The strongest inhibition was achieved with the "new" antisense oligonucleotide being able to inhibit MIA-expression by 84% compared to the state of art antisense oligonucleotides 1-8 (corresponding to Sequence ID No's 1-8 of the patent application WO 01/68122), where inhibition of MIA-expression varied between 48% and 65%.

At page 28, replace the abstract with the following paragraph:

An antisense oligonucleotide selected from the group of

- the sequence 5' - TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) and modifications thereof
- a fragment having at least 8 nucleotides of the sequence 5'- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) and modifications thereof.